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# Daniloff tells newsmen: You could be next

By Ed Rogers  
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Nicholas Daniloff, who was imprisoned by the Soviets for 13½ days on espionage charges, yesterday said he feels "like a sneaker that's been through a wringer" and warned fellow Moscow correspondents they could be next.

Mr. Daniloff, 51, Moscow correspondent for U.S. New & World Report magazine, was seized by Soviet KGB agents on Aug. 30, one week after the FBI arrested a Soviet United Nations official on spying charges in New York.

"They could have chosen you," Mr. Daniloff told reporters covering his press conference. "All of you are potential targets of this sort of action, and it's deplorable."

The Soviet news agency Tass later quoted Mr. Daniloff as warning that "danger lurked every step of the way" in Moscow. Tass said it is "well known that journalists who exercise their profession honestly have no need to worry."

Giving his reaction to being confined in a cell that was "five paces long and three paces wide," Mr. Daniloff said:

"Even though I was not cold, I was not hungry, I was not abused in any physical sense, the mere fact of being transferred into a prison cell, being

isolated from your family, from your friends, not being allowed under the Soviet system to have legal counsel, being interrogated four hours a day for two weeks, is a very, very hard burden.

"And, frankly, I'd have to tell you it's mental torture."

Mr. Daniloff was released to the custody of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow last Friday and Gennady Zakharov, a Soviet physicist charged with buying classified material from an FBI informant, was released to the Soviet ambassador.

Neither man is free to go home and each may ultimately face trial

on espionage charges unless U.S. and Soviet officials agree on a swap, or reach some other "diplomatic accommodation," various sources said.

"I don't think it should be a direct swap," Mr. Daniloff said. "As far as I know, Zakharov is a KGB line officer — and I am not."

As to widespread speculation that the incident might damage U.S.-Soviet relations and even sidetrack an arms control summit meeting, Mr. Daniloff said:

"I don't want that. I want to see Soviet-American relations move on a course of improvement. I don't want to see my single case being preempting a serious negotiation.

"Nevertheless," he added, "the Soviet side continues to whip up a campaign which is intended, of course, to undermine my credibility."

Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said he is optimistic that President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will meet this year, but added, "It won't be the end of the world if there is no summit."

Sen. Daniel Moynihan, New York Democrat, called on the president to retaliate against the Soviets for their treatment of Mr. Daniloff.

U.S. officials "could pick up 500" Soviet spies on short order if the president would give the word, Mr. Moynihan said. He also said subsidized grain sales to the Soviets and cultural exchanges should be placed in jeopardy.

Sen. Richard Lugar, Indiana Republican and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the administration must "demonstrate through retaliatory action, through the demonstrated will, that we are not going to see equivalency."

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig said the administration's handling of the Daniloff case initially "was very soft" and thus far has shown the United States is more eager for a summit in this election year than is Moscow.

Gennadi Gerasimov, a Soviet

Foreign Ministry spokesman, mentioned additional charges against Mr. Daniloff during an interview on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

"My government have sent over some material from the investigation which, in our view, shows that he was conducting some kind of activities which are incompatible with his status as a journalist," Mr. Gerasimov said.

Mr. Gerasimov would not go into specifics, but TASS had previously claimed that Mr. Daniloff committed acts of espionage at the direction of the CIA.

While the Soviet news agencies have reported these charges without qualification, Director Charles Z. Wick of the U.S. Information Agency, which operates the Voice of America, said many Soviet citizens are getting the truth about the case through VOA broadcasts.

"They [the Soviets] are jamming all the time," Mr. Wick said in an interview. "We still get through. We're going on 18 frequencies from different parts of the world. When the news does get through, it spreads like wildfire."

Mr. Daniloff denied Soviet charges that he has done any spying or acted at the direction of the CIA during his years as a correspondent in Moscow.

"I was under no instructions from any government agency of the United States, and all of my actions were on my own initiative or on the request of my magazine," he said. "And that, please believe me, is the God's full truth."

The Soviets have claimed that Mr. Daniloff admitted acts of espionage during questioning in his prison cell.

"I consider that a crude distortion of my testimony," Mr. Daniloff said. "I think what you see happening is the Soviet side trying to make their case more convincing."

Mr. Daniloff said he believed charges concerning a CIA link were based on an unsolicited letter, addressed to the U.S. ambassador in Moscow, that appeared in his mailbox in January 1985.

He said he delivered the letter unopened to the U.S. Embassy, and that embassy officials later asked questions about it, and that ended his connection with the incident.

In an earlier incident, he said, the KGB tried to persuade Dr. David Goldfarb, who was about to leave for Israel, to place Mr. Daniloff in a possibly incriminating situation and Mr. Goldfarb refused to do so.

"He was punished for that, I believe, because he was not allowed to leave the Soviet Union," Mr. Daniloff said. "He is now lying in a Moscow hospital. I have visited him there. His condition is very serious, but he protected me in that sense."